

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081350
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081350

FOR CONGRESSMAN DIGGS FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, MASS, PFOR

SUBJECT: AID TO ZAIRE

1. IN PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE AID TO ZAIRE AND POSSIBLE
LIMITS UPON IT. IN CONSONANCE WITH THAT PROCESS OF
CONSULTATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS WITH
REGARD TO THE NEXT STEPS WE HAVE IN MIND TAKING.

2. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE A LIMITED RESPONSE TO REQUESTS
FOR AID FROM A LONG TIME FRIEND WHOSE TERRITORY IS UNDER
ATTACK BY INVADING FORCES COMING FROM ANGOLA. WHILE WE
WISH TO AVOID MAKING THE ZAIRE SITUATION APPEAR A TEST OF
AMERICAN WILL OR A MAJOR EAST/WEST CONFRONTATION, OUR
FAILURE TO SUPPORT ZAIRE WOULD HAVE WIDER REPERCUSSIONS ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 081350

OUR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

3. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT ANGOLAN, CUBAN OR
SOVIET MILITARY ARE AMONG THE INVADERS BUT ASSUME THAT THEIR
LEADERSHIP ACQUIESCED IN THE ATTACK AND THAT THEY ARE
PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM ANGOLA.

4. A NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE THREAT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF A FELLOW OAU MEMBER. MOROCCO HAS RESPONDED TO ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR AID BY SENDING 1500 TROOPS. BELGIUM AND FRANCE ARE PROVIDING SUPPORT.

5. THERE HAS BEEN SUPPORT FOR THE ZAIRIAN POSITION FROM VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES. MOROCCO, EGYPT AND UGANDA HAVE PROMISED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. MORE COUNTRIES HAVE PUBLICLY SUPPORTED ZAIRE INCLUDING: LIBERIA, MAURITIUS, SUDAN AND RWANDA. OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON, BOTSWANA, MAURITANIA, GHANA, KENYA AND SWAZILAND HAVE PRIVATELY INDICATED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE INVASION OF SHABA; SENEGAL AND RWANDA HAVE URGED US TO BE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF ZAIRE.

6. WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO ADVISE EITHER OUR ALLIES OR OTHER AFRICAN STATES ON HOW THEY SHOULD RESPOND TO ZAIRE'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT CONSULTED IN ADVANCE ON THEIR DECISION TO SEND TROOPS, WE HOPE THE MOROCCAN COMMITMENT WILL HELP STABILIZE THE MILITARY SITUATION AND TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THE NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT A CHANCE TO WORK, WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN LACKING. THE NIGERIANS, WHO HAVE JUST MET WITH AN ANGOLAN DELEGATION, HAVE EXPRESSED THE SAME HOPE ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE YET TO ANALYZE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE.

7. THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO EXTEND FURTHER TANGIBLE
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PAGE 03 STATE 081350

SUPPORT TO ZAIRE BUT IN A PRECISELY LIMITED MANNER. WE WILL SEND NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND ONLY UP TO THE AMOUNT ALREADY APPROVED BY CONGRESS FOR ZAIRE (AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS 30 MILLION REMAINING IN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR 1977 AUTHORIZATIONS). WITHIN THIS LIMIT THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES IMMEDIATELY TO HONOR PENDING ZAIRIAN REQUESTS FOR NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT VALUED AT DOLLARS 13 MILLION (DOLLARS NINE MILLION OF THIS SUM IS FOR ONE C-130 ON ORDER UNDER FY 1976 FMS CREDIT; OTHER REQUESTS ARE FOR POL, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS FOR C-130S, CESSNAS, TRUCKS AND JEEPS).

8. IN ADDITION THE PRESIDENT MAY WISH TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO CONGRESSIONALLY APPROVED 1977 PROGRAMS: (A) DOLLARS 16.6 MILLION FOR COMMODITY IMPORTS UNDER SSA; (B) DOLLARS 14.9 MILLION UNDER PL 480.

9. MEANWHILE, THE US WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FULLY THE NIGERIAN EFFORT FOR MEDIATION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA.

WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY CONSULTING WITH THE NIGERIAN
AUTHORITIES AND FEEL THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL COMPLEMENT
THOSE OF NIGERIA TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO CENTRAL
AFRICA.

10. I WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ON THE
FOREGOING.
VANCE

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NNN

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